1. **When is academic advising and preregistration?** Each semester, students can select courses for the following semester. Academic advising and registration for the Spring 2019 semester courses will be November 5-16, 2018.

   **Registration Schedule**
   - Seniors (87 credits and above)     Monday, November 5 & Tuesday, November 6
   - Juniors (57 – 86 credits)               Thursday, November 8 & Friday, November 9
   - Sophomores (27 – 56 credits)       Tuesday, November 13 & Wednesday, November 14
   - Freshmen (26 credits and below)  Thursday, November 15 & Friday, November 16

2. **Who is my advisor?** Your advisor is listed at the lower right of your SPIRE student center. Contact Lisa West if you need an advisor assigned.

3. **What does an AnSci or Pre-Vet major need to do before registering for classes?** Each Pre-Vet and AnSci major is assigned an academic faculty advisor and must meet with their advisor prior to the start of registration. One week prior to advising week, all students receive an email reminder and instructions to sign up for a 20-30 minute advising appointment. Prior to the advising appointment, students should review their Academic Requirements Report in SPIRE (menu at center left of student center), which details progress toward university and graduation requirements. Students should come to their advising appointment with their proposed course schedule and any academic or career planning questions. After meeting with the student, advisors remove the registration hold.

4. **Why should I register as soon as my enrollment appointment opens?** Prompt registration is the best way to ensure that you get the courses that you want. Every semester, some courses fill up early, especially classes that cannot be expanded, such as labs. On the other side of the coin, some less popular courses may be canceled if too few people register. A good strategy is to place your courses in your shopping cart before your enrollment appointment starts, so that you can register as soon as your appointment opens.

5. **What is the date and time that I can register?** Check your specific enrollment date and time by clicking the “More details” link under “Enrollment Appointment” on the lower right side of student center in SPIRE. Access begins first for seniors.

   - Seniors (87 credits and above)     Monday, November 5 & Tuesday, November 6
   - Juniors (57 – 86 credits)               Thursday, November 8 & Friday, November 9
   - Sophomores (27 – 56 credits)       Tuesday, November 13 & Wednesday, November 14
   - Freshmen (26 credits and below)  Thursday, November 15 & Friday, November 16

Class designations/levels are based on total number of credits earned, including those being earned in the current semester, not upon years at UMass Amherst. If you fail to register as soon as possible, you may find that you cannot get in your required courses or preferred sections.
6. Why can’t I register? Check your Holds status on the right hand side of your SPIRE student center. All AnSci and Pre-Vet majors have an EN-1hold meaning you cannot register without first meeting with your academic advisor. Your advisor should remove your advising requirement hold after you meet, but there are also holds blocking registration that are placed on your account by the academic dean’s office, health services, or the bursar’s office. You will have to contact the office responsible for the hold in order to have it removed.

7. I can’t register for Chem 261 because it is full. What should I do? There are two ways to get into Chem 261:

1) Wait until the grades are released and frequently check SPIRE for seats opening up when Chemistry ejects those students who have earned grades less than C- in Chem 112.

2) Attend the section of your choice during add/drop this spring and ask the instructor if you can be manually enrolled. You can try emailing the instructor now and asking very nicely if you could be manually enrolled now. Don’t forget to include your SPIRE ID # so that the instructor can simply forward your email to the administrator.

8. Why can’t I register for some courses using SPIRE?
- You really haven’t met the prerequisites or eligibility for the course you’re trying to register for or you’ve met the prerequisites, but SPIRE doesn’t recognize it.
- You need instructor permission for the course.
- The course is restricted to RAP/TAP groups, other majors, or upper classmen.

In all of the above situations, you need to contact the instructor listed for the class with your name, SPIRE ID number, five digit class number for lecture and discussion/lab section, if applicable, and reason why you should be manually enrolled in the class. If your prerequisite class is not recognized by SPIRE, explain the reason why you can’t get into the class and/or why you need a particular section to the instructor, i.e. the materials covered in the class that is equivalent to the prerequisite class in SPIRE. If the course is restricted to other groups, explain why taking the class or that particular section is particularly important to you (e.g. class required by vet school or it won’t fit into your schedule in any other semester). You may be enrolled if there is space available after the other group has had a chance to register. This could happen as late as the beginning of the next semester. Make sure that there is space available for that class in your schedule.

Special cases:

**Microbio 265**: Students interested in Microbio 265 (1 credit) must apply to the Microbiology Department. The Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences offers a 2 credit Microbiology Lab - ANIMLSCI 366 - Veterinary Microbiology both semesters. Students who cannot fit ANIMLSCI 366 into their schedules and are interested in applying to Veterinary Colleges that require a 2 credit lab should speak with the 366 instructor, or email Erika Hamilton for any remaining spots in Micro 312 (3 credits).

**Biochem 423/424**: Students who wish to take Biochem I and II to strengthen their vet/grad school application and who have taken Animal Science 200 should email Dr. Janice Telfer, who will send a list of qualified students to Biochem to be registered.

**Chem 269**: Enrollment is initially restricted to seniors, but will open to juniors and possibly sophomores; keep checking.
Comm 260: Enrollment is restricted to COMM majors, email Prof. Stephen Gencarella. You may have to wait until the add/drop period to be enrolled.

Chem 112/261/262/269; Bio 152/153: If you can’t get into the only lecture or laboratory section that fits into your schedule, check SPIRE at least once a day after the semester’s grades are released for seats opening up. Students who have previously registered will lose their seats if they earn below the minimum grade required to progress (i.e. C or C-).

There are two ways to get into Chem 261:
1) Wait until the grades are released and frequently check SPIRE for seats opening up when Chemistry ejects those students who have earned grades less than C- in Chem 112.
2) Attend the section of your choice during add/drop this spring and ask the instructor if you can be manually enrolled. You can try emailing the instructor now and asking very nicely if you could be manually enrolled now. Don’t forget to include your SPIRE ID # so that the instructor can simply forward your email to the administrator.

Math 127: Attend the first lecture and speak to the instructor in person about enrollment.

9. What are my University General Education (Gen Ed) requirements? Most AnSci/Pre-Vet majors who started in the Fall of 2010 or later as freshmen will have to choose classes to fulfill the following Gen Ed requirements:

-1 (4 credit) AL or AT Arts and Literature
-1 (4 credit) HS History
-1 (4 credit) SB Social & Behavioral Sciences

In order to minimize the number of Gen Ed classes taken, two of the three Gen Ed classes above should also have the U (United States) and G (Global) diversity designation, so that two Gen Ed requirements can be fulfilled with one class (e.g. ALG fulfills AL and G requirements).

-ANIMLSCI 260 Animal Care and Welfare is a 4 credit SI Gen Ed and is also a graduation requirement for AnSci and Pre-Vet students.
-ENGLWRIT 112 fulfills the College Writing (CW) requirement.
-R1, R2, BS, and PS are fulfilled by classes already required for AnSci and Pre-Vet graduation requirements.
-NATSCI 387 fulfills the Junior Writing requirement. If you want to fulfill this requirement with another class, your advisor can approve of its substitution because it is a major requirement.

-1 Integrative Experience (IE)

The IE GenEd is specific to each major. You can check your requirements by looking in your Academic Requirements Report, available on the top of the menu at the center left of your SPIRE student center. The IE requirement is listed just after the Diversity “U” and “G” section of your Academic Requirements Report. If you are a freshman or sophomore, you should wait. Most seniors do not have the IE requirement. If you are graduating early and can’t fulfill the IE requirement, you will need to apply to the academic dean for a waiver. If you are a junior or a transfer student, you have three options. You only need to take one of these options to fulfill the IE requirement:
1) If you are in Commonwealth Honors College, wait until the fall of your senior year, when you are taking 499Y (first semester of your honors thesis). Sign up for both 499T (second semester of the honors thesis) and the 1 credit AnSci 494 TI. The combination of 499Y+499T+AnSci 494 TI will fulfill your AnSci/Pre-Vet IE requirement; you do not need to take any other class.
OR
If you are not in Commonwealth Honors College and you are a junior or senior who needs to fulfill the IE GenEd requirement, you can choose from two different classes. You do not need to take both. There are no other classes from other departments that will fulfill AnSci/Pre-Vet IE requirement. If you are a double major or double degree student, consult with your advisor.

2) AnSci 494 GI Good Intentions, offered in the Spring semester.


10. How do you find General Education courses on SPIRE? If you need a Gen Ed course in a particular category, go to SPIRE “Main Menu”, then “Course Guide”, then “Search for Classes” page. Leave the “Subject” box blank, set the “Course Number” to “greater to or equal to 100” and change the “Session:” box to “*University”. Then scroll down to the “Gen Ed Category” box and choose the category you need (e.g., HS for History Gen Eds that include HS, HSU and HSG courses or HSU for only History, diversity United States courses). Make sure you consider the credits of the course you choose, since 3 credits Gen Ed course are still offered, but will not fulfill 4 credit Gen Ed requirements. There are no 1 or 2 credit Gen Ed courses.

11. What are some electives offered in the Spring of 2019?
Suggested and related electives are listed below.

Students should be sure to check SPIRE for availability and pre-requisites.

Suggested Animal Science Electives Spring 2019
AnimlSci 251—Dorset Sheep Management II
AnimlSci 252—Belted Galloway Management II
AnimlSci 253—Boer Goat Management II
AnimlSci 254—Poultry Management II
AnimlSci 256 – Equine Management II
AnimlSci 291C - Biotech Research - Cellular and Molecular I
AnimlSci 297D – Dairy Calf Management II
AnimlSci 298V – Techniques in Veterinary Nursing
AnimlSci 297L ST – Bay State Livestock Classic
AnimlSci 320 - Animal Business Management
AnimlSci 385 – Introductory Biotechnology Lab
AnimlSci 391C - Biotech Research - Cellular and Molecular II
AnimlSci 391M - Biotech Research – Animal Models II
AnimlSci 398D - Service Dog Training
AnimlSci 454 - Dairy Herd Management
AnimlSci 456 - Research Animal Management II
AnimlSci 491C - Biotech Research - Cellular and Molecular I
AnimlSci 491M - Biotech Research – Animal Models I
Suggested Electives Spring 2019
Biology 273 - Marine Vertebrates
Biology 280 – Evolution – Diversity through Time
Biology 287 – Introduction to Ecology
Biology 514 - Population Genetics
Biology 523 – Histology
Biology 540 - Herpetology
Biology 544 - Ornithology
Biology 548 - Mammalogy
Biology 550 - Animal Behavior
Biology 564 - Human Physiology
Biology 566- Comparative Physiology
Biology 572 – Neurobiology
Biology 580- Developmental Biology
Biology 583 - Advanced Genetics
Biology 597AB ST – Animal Behavior
Biochem 424 - General Biochemistry II
Comm 250 - Interpersonal Communication (prerequisite for some vet schools)
Comm 260— Public Speaking (prerequisite for some vet schools)
Econ 103 Introduction to Microeconomics / RESEC 102 Intro Resource Econ (both Gen Ed SB, good introduction to business)
Envirsci 214 - Ecosystems, Biodiversity & Global Change
Envirsci 315 - Principles of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry
FoodSci 150 - The Science of Food
Microbio 160 - Biology of Cancer and AIDS
Microbio 330 - Microbial Genetics
Microbio 542 - Immunology Laboratory
NRC 261 - Wildlife Conservation
NRC 390E - Evolution and Conservation
Stocksch 105 – Soils with Lab
Stocksch 211 – Pasture Management with Lab
or graduate courses……..
AnimlSci 794A or 795A–Journal Clubs

12. Can I change my schedule, even after the semester starts? Once the registration period begins, you can change your schedule any time, from any computer with internet access, until access ends about two weeks after the beginning of the semester. Attend the lectures and keep up with the material and any assignments or quizzes during this period. If you are unable to make a desired change because a course is full, keep trying. Students are adding and dropping continually, so spaces can open up briefly at any time. Persistence often pays off. Always add before you drop. Or better yet, use the “swap” function to replace one class with another or the “edit” function to change labs while remaining in the same lecture. The moment you drop a course, someone else can take your spot; thus, make sure you are in the course you want before you drop anything. If you drop the lab section of a course with a lab component, you will automatically be dropped from the lecture, too. If the course is full, you may be unable to get back in.
13. How do I sign up for Biotechnology Research Experience? Independent study projects are a great opportunity to learn scientific reasoning and techniques and to work closely with a faculty sponsor. During your freshman or sophomore years, you should start thinking about what type of research you would like to start doing as a junior since most faculty members will not take students starting independent study projects as seniors. You can discuss this with your advisor and look at faculty research interests on the VASCI and UMass websites. During the semester before that in which you want to start, email faculty members to ask if they have space available for an undergraduate and to arrange a meeting to discuss how you might fit into their research projects. To register for ANIMLSCI 291C, 291M, 391C, 391M, 491C, 491M, obtain a Biotechnology Research Experience Contract form, available outside ISB 427X. The sponsoring faculty and the student decide the course number that is appropriate, as well as composing a project title and description of project goals and expectations. One credit is equivalent to three hours of work per week x 13 weeks per semester so a student signing up for three credits should be working on the independent study nine hours per week (in lab or barn and reading) for the entire semester. An abstract or poster/oral presentation detailing the results of the research project is required by Science Day in April of the year in which the student is registered for the independent study project. The student makes two copies of the independent study project contract, gives one to the faculty sponsor and submits the original to Mary Schneider in ISB 427Z before the end of add/drop.

14. How do I sign up for an Internship or Practicum? Internships and Practica should be registered as ANIMLSCI 298, 398 or 498 through Handshake.

To access your UMass Handshake account:
1. Go to: https://umass.joinhandshake.com - Handshake has a great help center full of Questions and Answers, short videos, and materials to help you find your way.
2. Click on the blue button
3. Log in with your UMass single sign-on (SSO) username (Net ID) and password
4. Once you are logged in, go to the Career Center tab at the top
5. Pull down “Experiences” from this menu
6. Click “Request an Experience” on the top right and fill in the appropriate contract details
   1 credit = 3 hours per week

There must be an academic product – usually a journal documenting hours worked and lessons learned that must be submitted to your faculty sponsor at the end of the semester. The University provides liability insurance, which is often required by employers. Students can participate in Internships and Practica during the academic semesters (no Extra charge) or during the summer (~ $250 per credit). After the form has been submitted through Handshake, your faculty sponsor will receive an email asking for approval. The form is then forwarded to a VASCI (academic year) or CPE (summer) staff member who will enroll you.

15. Can I add a class after the registration period is over? Once the registration period ends, it’s no longer possible to change your schedule using SPIRE. You can still add courses, but you must use a “late add” form, which must be signed by the course instructor and by your academic dean (located in the Undergraduate Deans Office, 220 Morrill, 545-1969).

16. Can I add a course if I’ve reached my credit limit of 19 credits? If you want to take more than 19 credits per semester, you will need to submit a credit overload petition, which you can access at https://secure.cns.umass.edu/webforms/credit-overload-petition

It can take up to five working days to process, so it is in your interest to start the process well before the beginning of the semester. Applications are evaluated based on the total number of credits requested and the GPA of the applicant.
17. How can I withdraw from a course after the registration period is over? You can withdraw from a course through the mid-semester “W” date, which is noted on the academic calendar for each semester. A “W” will show up on your transcript indicating that you were enrolled in the course after the add/drop period. You have to fill out the course change request form, have it signed by your instructor, and bring it to the Registrar’s Office by the mid-semester date. The form does not require a dean’s signature. Just be sure you remain a full time student with at least 12 credits, so that your financial aid and housing are not affected.

18. I am not doing well in a class. Can I withdraw from it after the mid-semester “W” date? You can withdraw from a class by the “W” date for academic reasons, but withdrawal from a course after the mid-semester date is possible only with verifiable and extenuating circumstances (e.g. extended illness, family emergency, work schedule change). You should discuss your situation with your academic advisor. If you decide to petition for a late withdrawal use the Late Withdrawal Petition form. Your petition will be reviewed by the CNS Advising Committee and you will be notified of the decision.

Another option if you encounter a crisis that keeps you from taking an exam or handing in an assignment at the end of a course is to ask the professor if you can take an Incomplete (INC). Be prepared to present documentation to the professor to verify your statements. An INC on your transcript will be counted as an F in your GPA. The work necessary to change an INC to a grade must be completed by the end of the next semester; otherwise, an INC will automatically convert to an F. Students can withdraw from a course until the mid-semester date and have a “W” show up on their transcript. The W will stay on the transcript even if the student repeats the course. However, a bad grade, even if it is replaced in the UMass GPA by a better grade from a course repeat, also stays on the transcript. Tufts/Cummings Veterinary College uses both grades when they recalculate student GPAs. Thus, withdrawing from a course because the student is overloaded with credits that semester can be a better option than taking a bad grade. It is a better strategy to focus on getting good grades in the major required courses and withdraw from GenEd or elective courses. If the student is planning to apply to veterinary or graduate school, they do not want to give the impression that they can’t handle multiple challenging science courses (e.g. taking a W in Organic Chemistry and retaking it in the summer).

Students can obtain the course change form from outside 427Z ISB, the Registrar’s office, or at the CNS Advising Center 220 Morrill II, have their instructor sign it, and return it to the Registrar by the midsemester date. Students wishing to withdraw after the mid-semester date must petition the CNS Advising Committee using the Late Withdrawal Petition Form. Instructors don’t have the power to grant late withdrawals.

19. How does the pass/fail option work? The pass/fail option is designed to let you take challenging courses without worrying about their impact on your GPA. However, you can’t take a course required for your major or a general education course pass/fail. Only one elective course per semester can be taken pass/fail—if two or more pass/fail options are taken in one semester, SPIRE will convert one of them back to a letter grade basis without informing you. You must choose the pass/fail option by the mid-semester “W” date. The professor will still assign you a grade. If you get a good grade in the course that will improve your GPA; the grade will appear on your transcript. If the grade does not increase your GPA, it will not be used in computing your GPA and a P or F will appear on your transcript.

20. How do I change my major? Make an appointment to discuss the requirements with the Chief Undergraduate Advisor in the department you are interested in transferring to. If you decide to change majors the Chief Undergraduate Advisor in the new department will assist you. It is appreciated if you let your VASCI academic advisor know you have changed majors.
21. **What happens if my GPA goes below a 2.0?** To be in academic good standing you must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0. If you go below a 2.0 you will be placed on academic probation and will need to see the Academic Dean in 220 Morrill II Science Center and your academic advisor to develop a strategy to improve your academic performance. If in any subsequent semester, your cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, you will be suspended for a semester but then allowed to return to the University. If your GPA is below a 2.0 for a third semester, you will be dismissed from the university.

22. **What do I need to graduate from UMass?** You must earn 120 credits; complete your general education, college and major requirements, and earn a 2.0 GPA in your major and a 2.0 GPA overall. You can track these requirements in your Academic Requirements Report (left side of SPIRE student center). Click “Expand all” at the top to see all of the details.

23. **Can I take a course at another school and have it count towards my graduation requirements?** Yes, but you must first complete a Prior Approval for Transfer Work or Prior Approval for Senior Year in Absentia form. If you wish the course you are taking to fulfill a university requirement or a major requirement taught by another department, you should submit the form to the Registrar’s Office in Whitmore. In many cases, the course will have been previously approved as the equivalent of a UMass Amherst course. If it has not been previously approved, you will have to submit documentation such as a course description or syllabus to your advisor. In some cases, the course will not be considered to be the equivalent of a UMass Amherst course, but the credits will transfer in as a generic transfer course. If your advisor approves, generic transfer courses can be directed to substitute for a major requirement, either before or after they are transferred to UMass Amherst. You must earn a “C-” or above for a course to be transferred – remember your grade will not be factored into your GPA nor will a transferred course grade replace a grade of C- or below in a UMass Amherst course.

24. **Should I repeat a course?** If you are planning to apply to veterinary medical college and you have a grade of C or C+ in a freshman or sophomore class, unless the vet school to which you plan to apply has a requirement for a minimum grade in all prerequisite classes, it is better to focus on getting high grades in upper level classes rather than retaking earlier classes.

You can repeat a course to replace a grade of C- or below once. However, if you wish to retake it another time, even if the grade is a C- or below, you must request permission from the academic dean. It is now likely that permission to take a course a third time will be denied. If you have failed a course required for graduation or can’t progress in a Biology or Chemistry series because you don’t have the minimum grade required, then you should consider changing your major.

25. **Where do I go for help in writing my resume or getting ready for an interview?**

Join Handshake at: [https://umass.joinhandshake.com](https://umass.joinhandshake.com) to search for internships, jobs and co-ops; and learn about upcoming Career Fairs, Networking and Recruiting events on campus.

To make a Career Advising Appointment with a CNS Career Counselor, log on to Handshake:

- Click on Career Center
- Choose Appointments
- Schedule a New Appointment
- College of Natural Sciences
- Career Advising – CNS
- Choose your Appointment

Visit our CNS Career Center webpage for Career Resources: [www.cns.umass.edu/careers](http://www.cns.umass.edu/careers)

Walk-in to meet with a Career Peer Advisors, 10-5, M-F (during Academic Year), CNS Career Center, Morrill III, Room 215. No appointment necessary!
Dr. Sue Marston (ISB 427Y) is also available by appointment, to assist students with finding internships and with résumé and cover letter review. You can also access https://www.vasci.umass.edu/undergraduate/opportunities and http://www.studentdoctor.net.

26. **How can I appeal a suspension or a dismissal?** If you have been suspended or dismissed from the university, you may appeal your case to the Committee on Admissions and Records. Appeals are accepted in writing only and must go through a CNS Academic Dean first. Download this pdf for more information.

27. **Can my advisor talk with my parents or others about my academic record?** Federal privacy laws only allow advisors to speak to the individual student about that student’s academic records. If you would like your parents (or other individuals you designate) to have access to your academic record, then you must complete the academic information release form. The signed academic information release form must be on file with your advisor before your advisor can speak to anyone other than the student about academic information.

28. **How do I study abroad? National Student Exchange for UMass Students** – The on-campus UMass-Amherst Domestic Exchange is part of the National Student Exchange of about 160 colleges across the United States. With the assistance of your academic advisor, courses can be selected to meet Veterinary & Animal Sciences and University requirements so that you graduate with your class. You may also find courses not offered in UMass-Amherst that would enhance your educational experience. Students normally select an exchange for their junior year. Applicants must be in good standing (GPA of 2.5) and make application for an exchange through the UMass-Amherst Domestic Exchange Office, 614 Goodell (413-545-5351) in the year prior to the exchange. Exchanges can be for one or two semesters at the same or different schools. The National Student Exchange web site is http://www.nse.org. Prior approval is required for students wishing to take credits at another institution and transfer them to UMass to meet degree requirements. The Prior Approval for Transfer Course Work Form is found at http://www.umass.edu/registrar/.

**International Student Exchange for UMass students** – International exchange programs through UMass-Amherst can be arranged throughout the world. Exchanges involve over 80 college programs in 25 countries. International exchanges most often occur in the junior year. A grade point average of 3.0 and foreign language proficiency (in non-English speaking countries) is desired. Most courses taken (but not the grades) are transferable to our program and count towards residency credit requirements. Apply at the W.S. Clark International Center, Hills South, 4th floor (413-545-2710) and see www.UMass.edu/ipo/ Prior approval is required for students wishing to take credits at another institution and transfer them to UMass to meet degree requirements. The Prior Approval for Transfer Course Work Form is found at http://www.umass.edu/registrar/.

29. **Can my advisor talk with my parents or others about my academic record?** Federal privacy laws only allow advisors to speak to the individual student about that student’s academic records. If you would like your parents (or other individuals you designate) to have access to your academic record, then you must complete the academic information release form. The signed academic information release form must be on file with your advisor before your advisor can speak to anyone other than the student about academic information.